

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

SHARI LINDENBAUM, individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

**PORTFOLIO RECOVERY
ASSOCIATES, LLC**, a Delaware limited
liability company,

Defendant.

Case No. : 1:17-cv-1895

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Shari Lindenbaum (“Lindenbaum” or “Plaintiff”) brings this Class Action Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial (“Complaint”) against Defendant Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC (“PRA” or “Defendant”) to: (1) stop its practice of placing calls using an “automatic telephone dialing system” (“ATDS”) and/or using “an artificial or prerecorded voice” to the cellular telephones of consumers nationwide without their prior express consent; (2) stop Defendant from calling consumers who are registered on the National Do Not Call Registry; and (3) obtain redress for all persons injured by its conduct. Plaintiff Lindenbaum, for her Complaint, alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to herself and her own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by her attorneys.

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Shari Lindenbaum is a natural person and resident of Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

2. Defendant Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company. PRA is a debt collector, using the mails and telephone to collect consumer debts originally owed to others. PRA is a wholly owned subsidiary of PRA Group, Inc. (“PRA Group”),¹ a publicly traded Delaware corporation. PRA systemically and continuously conducts business throughout this District, the State of Ohio, and the United States, and is registered with the Ohio Secretary of State. PRA maintains its principal offices at 120 Corporate Boulevard, Norfolk, Virginia 23502. PRA can be served through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company at 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as the action arises under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 *et seq.* (the “TCPA”), which is a federal statute.

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it maintains a significant presence in this District, solicits significant business in this District, has entered into business contracts in this District, and a significant portion of the unlawful conduct alleged in this Complaint occurred in and/or was directed to this District.

5. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendant conducts a significant amount of business within this District and because the

¹ On October 23, 2014, PRA Group changed its legal name from Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc. to PRA Group, Inc. *See* Form 10-K at 5 (filed March 1, 2017), available at <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1185348/000118534817000012/praa-20161231x10k.htm>.

wrongful conduct giving rise to this case occurred in and/or was directed to this District. Venue is additionally proper because Plaintiff resides in this District.

COMMON ALLEGATIONS OF FACT

6. PRA Group's primary business is the purchase, collection and management of portfolios of nonperforming loans that have been charged-off by the credit grantor. The accounts that PRA Group acquires are primarily unpaid obligations of individuals owed to banks and other types of consumer, retail, and auto finance companies.

7. Defendant PRA was founded in 1996 and is one of the nation's largest debt collectors.

8. The TCPA prohibits companies, such as PRA, from placing calls using an ATDS and/or using an artificial or prerecorded voice ("prerecorded calls") when making calls to cellular telephones without first obtaining consent.

9. PRA has violated, and continue to violate, the TCPA and its implementing regulations by placing autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to cellular telephone subscribers (a) who had recycled (or reassigned) cellular telephone numbers who have not expressly consented to receiving such calls and/or (b) who have expressly requested not to receive such calls.

10. In many instances, PRA's autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to consumers' cellular telephones violate the TCPA because: (1) the telephone owner did not consent to receiving the calls (i.e., the consent, if it was obtained at all, was obtained from the prior owner of that telephone number); and/or (2) the current cellular telephone owner has expressly requested not to receive such calls.

11. As Congress recognized:

Many customers are outraged over the proliferation of intrusive, nuisance calls to their homes from telemarketers.... Banning such automated or prerecorded telephone calls to the home, except when the receiving party consents to receiving the call or when such calls are necessary in an emergency situation affecting the health and safety of the consumer, is the only effective means of protecting telephone consumers from this nuisance and privacy invasion.²

12. Senator Larry Pressler, one of the original drafters of the TCPA, explained the need for the TCPA by observing that “[u]nlike other communications media, the telephone commands our instan[t] attention. Junk mail can be thrown away. Television commercials can be turned off. The telephone demands to be answered.” 137 Cong. Rec. S18785 (daily ed. Nov. 27, 1991) (statement of Sen. Pressler).

13. As explained by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”)³, the TCPA requires “*prior express written consent* for all autodialed or prerecorded telemarketing calls to wireless numbers and residential lines.” *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, CG No. 02-278, FCC 12-21, 27 FCC Rcd. 1830 ¶ 2 (Feb. 15, 2012).

14. Indeed the FCC has explicitly noted that any such consent must be given by the party that is actually called, even if the caller intends to call another party:

[T]he TCPA requires the consent not of the intended recipient of a call, but of the current subscriber (or non-subscriber customary user of the phone) and that caller best practices can facilitate detection of reassignments before calls. We generally agree with commenters who oppose granting these requests that there are solutions in the marketplace to better inform callers of reassigned wireless numbers; that businesses should institute new or better safeguards to avoid calling reassigned

² Pub. L. No. 102-243 § 2(6, 12) (1991), codified at 47 U.S.C. § 227.

³ The FCC is the federal agency given the administrative authority to interpret and enforce the TCPA. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(2).

wireless numbers and facing TCPA liability; and that the TCPA requires consent from the actual party who receives a call.⁴

15. Yet, in violation of this rule, PRA fails to obtain any prior express written consent to place autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to consumers' cellular telephone numbers.

16. PRA also frequently uses skip-tracing services to identify possible telephone numbers in attempt to reach alleged debtors. Any telephone numbers acquired in such a manner would, by definition, lack the required prior express consent of the owner of that telephone number to be contacted on that number.

17. While some PRA customers may elect to receive autodialed and/or prerecorded calls, anyone in the U.S. can receive autodialed and/or prerecorded calls from PRA on their cellular telephone even if they do not have any prior relationship with Defendant. Thus, as with Plaintiff, PRA places autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to current subscribers of recycled cellular telephone numbers (many of whom do not have a relationship with Defendant) who have never consented to receiving such autodialed and/or prerecorded calls.

18. For various reasons, cellular telephone subscribers deactivate and relinquish their cellular telephone numbers. Once deactivated, the cellular telephone carrier reassigns the number to another subscriber – a practice known as “recycling.” Recycling times (i.e., the time between deactivation and reassignment) vary across carriers, generally ranging from 30 days to six months depending on location and

⁴ *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, CG No. 02-278, WC No. 07-135, FCC 15-72, 30 FCC Rcd. 7999-8000 ¶ 72 (July 10, 2015).

demand. During the recycling period, the cellular telephone number is considered disconnected.

19. In some instances, the prior owner of a recycled telephone number may have consented to receiving autodialed and/or prerecorded calls from PRA. But, even if the prior owner consented, that consent does not transfer to the recycled cellular telephone number's new owner. Ultimately, new owners of recycled cellular telephone numbers are given no choice in receiving, addressing, and paying for PRA's autodialed and/or prerecorded calls.

20. The mobile marketing industry is aware of cellular telephone number recycling and, in particular, the risk associated with placing of autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to non-consenting recycled numbers. To help mobile marketers navigate regulatory compliance, the Mobile Marketing Association ("MMA")⁵ publishes specific guidelines based on accepted industry practices for all mobile marketers. In its October 2012 U.S. Consumer Best Practices for Messaging, the MMA recommends that mobile marketers, such as Defendant:

have appropriate and effective systems and processes for managing deactivation and recycled number information. These systems and processes should be designed to ensure that mobile content programs subscribed to by previous holders of a specific phone number do not continue to be delivered or billed to a subsequent holder of that number when it is reassigned.⁶

⁵ The MMA is a global trade organization that issues codes of conduct, best practices, guidelines, rules and instructions for companies engaged in mobile marketing. Its U.S. Consumer Best Practices for Messaging are based on accepted industry practices, common wireless carrier policies and regulatory guidance. With over 800 members, the MMA is the preeminent source for mobile marketing information and expertise.

⁶ <https://www.ctia.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/industry-best-practices.pdf>

The MMA further advises mobile marketers to “process deactivation information within three business days of receipt.”⁷

21. In response to the liability risk associated with recycled numbers, numerous commercially available services exist to help companies, such as PRA, that place autodialed and/or prerecorded calls, identify recycled numbers and non-consenting cellular subscribers. For instance, companies such as Infutor, Nextmark List, and Contact Center Compliance advertise their ability to instantly identify and flag disconnected telephone numbers from cellular telephone number data lists on a recurring basis (such as weekly or monthly). This type of service can identify disconnected numbers before they are recycled, thereby alerting mobile marketers that any consent associated with those telephone numbers has been terminated.

22. Despite the FCC’s ruling, the industry guidelines, the commercial availability of programs that help callers filter out recycled numbers, and the obvious lack of consent associated with recycled numbers, PRA fails to take the necessary steps to ensure that their autodialed and/or prerecorded calls are placed only to consenting recipients.

23. Rather, in an effort to increase revenue and skirt additional costs, PRA simply treats the new recycled cellular telephone number owner as if he or she were the previous owner. As such, if the previous owner gave consent to receive PRA’s autodialed and/or prerecorded calls, PRA continue to treat that consent as the consent of the new (unassociated) owner. New owners are then forced to incur the cost and bother of

⁷ *Id.*

receiving PRA's autodialed and/or prerecorded calls. PRA often disregards the issue of consent when contacting individuals via autodialed and/or prerecorded call to their cellular telephones. A small sampling from Internet message boards confirms this:

- "Called but did not leave a message. Called 3 more times within 1 hour. I answered on the fourth call. They said I owe money for a car that I've never owned in a state I've never been to. They have me mixed up with someone else; I checked my credit report just to be sure there was nothing suspicious."⁸
- "Claims I owe money to Victoria Secret. I've never bought anything from Victoria Secret. This is a scammer..⁹
- "Keeps calling and insists my name Tina and I owe \$1500."¹⁰
- "These morons keep calling me saying I have a debt. I am 15 and in high school!!! I have no debts."¹¹

24. PRA knows or should know that its autodialed calls are placed to non-consenting cellular telephone number subscribers. Ultimately, PRA is responsible for verifying cellular telephone number ownership and obtaining consent before placing autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to cellular telephone subscribers. Even with prior cellular subscriber consent, PRA is liable under the TCPA for placing autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to cellular telephone numbers reassigned to new subscribers without the new subscriber's consent. *See Soppet v. Enhanced Recovery Co., LLC*, 679 F.3d 637, 641 (7th Cir. 2012) (under the TCPA, "[c]onsent to call a given number must come from its current subscriber," not its prior subscriber); *Breslow v. Wells Fargo*, 755 F. 3d 1265, 1267 (11th Cir. 2014) (consent from "called party" means consent from the person subscribing to the called number at the time the call was made, not the former

⁸ <http://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-770-599-7290>

⁹ <http://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-631-247-0734>

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ <http://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-856-345-2655/2>

subscriber); *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, CG No. 02-278, FCC 03-153, 18 FCC Rcd. 14014 ¶ 123 (July 3, 2003) (“we reject proposals to create a good faith exception for inadvertent autodialed or prerecorded calls to wireless numbers...”)

25. Given the multitude of readily available, commercially feasible resources to identify such consumers, PRA had ready means to identify those consumers and to obtain their prior express consent before placing autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to their cellular telephones.

26. PRA was, and is, aware that its unsolicited autodialed and/or prerecorded calls were, and are, unauthorized as it fails to obtain prior express written consent before placing those calls to consumers. Ultimately, consumers are forced to bear the costs of receiving these unsolicited autodialed and/or prerecorded calls.

27. Telemarketers can easily and inexpensively avoid calling consumers who are registered on the National Do Not Call Registry by “scrubbing” their call lists against the National Do Not Call Registry database. The scrubbing process identifies those numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry, allowing telemarketers to remove those numbers and ensure that no calls are placed to consumers whom opt-out of telemarketing calls.

28. To avoid violating the TCPA by calling registered numbers, telemarketers must scrub their call lists against the Registry at least once every thirty-one days. *See* 16 C.F.R. § 310.4(b)(3)(iv).

29. There are numerous third party services that will additionally scrub the call lists for a telemarketer to segment out landline and cellular telephone numbers, since

the consent standards differ depending on what type of phone a telemarketer is calling.¹²

Indeed, one service notes that they can:

Instantly verify whether a specific phone number is wireless or wireline to learn if TCPA regulations apply – and verify the identity of the current subscriber to determine if they are the same party who provided you with consent.¹³

30. By placing the unsolicited autodialed and/or prerecorded calls at issue in this Complaint, PRA caused Plaintiff and the other members of the Classes actual harm and cognizable legal injury. This includes the aggravation and nuisance and invasions of privacy that result from the sending and receipt of such autodialed and/or prerecorded calls, a loss of value realized for the monies consumers paid to their carriers for the receipt of such autodialed and/or prerecorded calls, and a loss of the use and enjoyment of their phones, including wear and tear to the related data, memory, software, hardware, and battery components, among other harms.

31. In response to PRA's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff filed this action seeking an injunction requiring Defendant to cease all unsolicited autodialed and/or prerecorded calling activities and an award of actual or statutory damages to the members of the Classes under the TCPA, together with costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

FACTS SPECIFIC TO PLAINTIFF SHARI LINDENBAUM

32. Plaintiff Lindenbaum is the registered account owner of a cellular telephone number, 216-xxx-6078.

¹² See e.g. <http://www.dncsolusion.com/do-not-call.asp>;
<http://www.donotcallprotection.com/do-not-call-compliance-solutions-1>;
http://www.mindwav.com/tcpa_compliance_solution.asp;

¹³ <https://www.neustar.biz/services/tcpa-compliance>

33. The 216-xxx-6078 number has been registered on the National Do Not Call Registry since December 17, 2004.

34. Starting on February 2, 2017, Plaintiff received a series of unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone calls from PRA.

35. On February 2, 2017 at 9:38 am, Plaintiff received an unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone call on the 216-xxx-6078 cellular telephone number from 770-599-7290, a number registered to, belonging to, or utilized by PRA.

36. On March 14, 2017 at 10:37 am, Plaintiff received an unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone call on the 216-xxx-6078 cellular telephone number from 347-254-7702, a number registered to, belonging to, or utilized by PRA.

37. On March 24, 2017 at 4:54 pm, Plaintiff received an unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone call on the 216-xxx-6078 cellular telephone number from 314-332-1501, a number registered to, belonging to, or utilized by PRA.

38. On April 3, 2017 at 8:47 am, Plaintiff received an unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone call on the 216-xxx-6078 cellular telephone number from 856-345-2655, a number registered to, belonging to, or utilized by PRA.

39. On April 13, 2017 at 8:38 am, Plaintiff received an unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone call on the 216-xxx-6078 cellular telephone number from 631-247-0734, a number registered to, belonging to, or utilized by PRA.

40. On May 23, 2017 at 8:30 am, Plaintiff received an unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone call on the 216-xxx-6078 cellular telephone number from 702-478-1334, a number registered to, belonging to, or utilized by PRA.

41. On June 6, 2017 at 8:32 am, Plaintiff received an unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone call on the 216-xxx-6078 cellular telephone number from 214-329-0188, a number registered to, belonging to, or utilized by PRA.

42. On June 12, 2017 at 8:38 am, Plaintiff received an unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone call on the 216-xxx-6078 cellular telephone number from 214-329-0188, a number registered to, belonging to, or utilized by PRA.

43. On August 1, 2017 at 1:04 pm, Plaintiff received an unsolicited, autodialed and/or prerecorded phone call on the 216-xxx-6078 cellular telephone number from 412-253-4095, a number registered to, belonging to, or utilized by PRA.

44. The autodialed and/or prerecorded calls at issue were unquestionably placed by PRA, as the caller-ID displayed numbers assigned to and used by PRA.

45. Plaintiff has never provided her prior express written consent to PRA to receive autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to her on the 216-xxx-6078 number.

46. PRA failed to obtain any prior express consent that included, as required by 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(f)(8)(i) a “clear and conspicuous” disclosure informing the person signing that:

(A) By executing the agreement, such person authorizes the seller to deliver or cause to be delivered to the signatory telemarketing calls using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice; and

(B) The person is not required to sign the agreement (directly or indirectly), or agree to enter into such an agreement as a condition of purchasing any property, goods, or services.

47. By placing the autodialed and/or prerecorded calls as alleged herein, PRA has caused consumers actual harm in the form of annoyance, nuisance, and invasion of privacy. In addition, the autodialed and/or prerecorded calls disturbed Plaintiff’s use and

enjoyment of her phone, in addition to the wear and tear on the phone's hardware (including the phone's battery) and the consumption of memory on Plaintiff's phone.

48. In order to redress these injuries, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the other members of the Classes, brings suit under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, *et seq.*, which prohibits unsolicited autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to cellular telephones.

49. On behalf of the Classes, Plaintiff seeks an injunction requiring PRA to cease all unsolicited autodialed and/or prerecorded calling activities, and to further cease placing calls to phone numbers listed on the National Do Not Call Registry, and an award of actual or statutory damages to the class members, together with costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

50. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3) on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated and seeks certification of the following two Classes:

Robocall No Consent Recycled Number Class: All persons in the United States who from a date four years prior to the filing of the initial complaint to the present: (1) PRA (or a third person acting on behalf of PRA) called; (2) on the person's cellular telephone number using an ATDS and/or an artificial or prerecorded voice; (3) where such number had been recycled or reassigned; and (4) for whom PRA claims they obtained prior express consent in the same manner as PRA claims they obtained prior express consent to call the Plaintiff.

Do Not Call Registry Class: All persons in the United States who: (1) PRA (or a third person acting on behalf of PRA) called more than one time on his/her cellphone; (2) within any 12-month period (3) where the cellphone number had been listed on the National Do Not Call Registry for at least thirty days; (4) for solicitation purposes; and (5) for whom PRA claims they obtained prior express consent in the same manner as PRA claims they obtained prior express consent to call the Plaintiff.

51. The following people are excluded from the Classes: (1) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this action and members of their families; (2) Defendant, Defendant's subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest and its current or former employees, officers and directors; (3) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Class; (4) persons whose claims in this matter have been finally adjudicated on the merits or otherwise released; (5) Plaintiff's counsel and Defendant's counsel; and (6) the legal representatives, successors, and assigns of any such excluded persons. Plaintiff anticipates the need to amend the definitions of the Classes following class discovery, including discovery revealing the manner by which Defendant claims they obtained prior express consent to place autodialed and/or pre-recorded calls to the Plaintiff.

52. **Numerosity:** The exact number of members within the Classes is unknown and not available to Plaintiff at this time, but it is clear that individual joinder is impracticable. On information and belief, Defendant has placed unsolicited autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to hundreds or thousands of consumers who fall into the definition of the Classes. Members of the Classes can be identified through Defendant's records.

53. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of other members of the Classes in that Plaintiff and the members of the Classes sustained damages arising out of Defendant's uniform wrongful conduct, namely its unauthorized solicitation calls. Plaintiff is a member of the Classes defined herein, and if Plaintiff is able to recover for

the claims set forth in this Complaint, then the other members of the Classes will have a right to recover as well.

54. **Adequate Representation:** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Classes and has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class actions, including class actions under the TCPA and related statutes. Plaintiff has no conflicts with, or interests antagonistic to, those of the Classes, and Defendant has no defenses unique to Plaintiff.

55. **Commonality and Predominance:** There are many questions of law and fact common to the claims of Plaintiff and the Classes, and those questions predominate over any questions that may affect individual members of the Classes. Common questions for the Classes include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- a) Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the TCPA;
- b) Whether Defendant utilized an ATDS to place calls to members of the Classes;
- c) Whether members of the Classes are entitled to statutory and treble damages based on the willfulness of Defendant's conduct;
- d) Whether Defendant obtained prior express consent to contact any class members;
- e) Whether Defendant's calls constitute telemarketing or were dual purpose messages; and
- f) To the extent Defendant's conduct does not constitute telemarketing, whether Defendant obtained prior express oral consent to contact any class members.

56. **Superiority:** This case is also appropriate for class certification because class proceedings are superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Joinder of all parties is impracticable, and the damages

suffered by the individual members of the Classes will likely be relatively small, especially given the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex litigation necessitated by Defendant's actions. Thus, it would be virtually impossible for the individual members of the Classes to obtain effective relief from Defendant's misconduct. Even if members of the Classes could sustain such individual litigation, it would still not be preferable to a class action. Individual litigation would increase the delay and expense to all parties due to the complex legal and factual controversies presented in this Complaint. By contrast, a class action presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single Court. Economies of time, effort and expense will be fostered and uniformity of decisions ensured.

57. Adequate notice can be given to the members of the Classes directly using information maintained in Defendant's records or through notice by publication.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
Telephone Consumer Protection Act
(Violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227)
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Robocall No Consent Recycled Number Class)

58. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

59. Defendant and/or its agent placed unsolicited calls to cellular telephone numbers belonging to Plaintiff and the other members of the Robocall No Consent Recycled Number Class using equipment that, upon information and belief, had the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator, and/or receive and store lists of phone numbers, and to dial such numbers, *en masse*, without human intervention. The telephone dialing equipment

utilized by Defendant and/or its agent, which is substantially similar to a predictive dialer, dialed numbers from a list, or dialed numbers from a database of telephone numbers, in an automatic and systematic manner.

60. These calls were made *en masse* and without the prior express written or oral consent of the Plaintiff and the other members of the Robocall No Consent Recycled Number Class to receive such calls.

61. These calls, including those to Plaintiff, were placed with an ATDS and/or utilized an artificial or prerecorded voice.

62. To the extent prior written express consent was required, Defendant failed to obtain prior written express consent disclosing to the consumer that agreeing to receive autodialed and/or prerecorded calls was not a condition of purchase or use of any goods or service or that the consumer was agreeing to receive calls with the use of an ATDS or similar technology. No oral consent was provided either.

63. To the extent Defendant's agent placed the calls at issue, Defendant's agent acted with actual or apparent authority and/or in accordance with a contract between Defendant and its agent. Defendant's agent acted under Defendant's control and for Defendant's benefit and/or with Defendant's knowledge and approval. Defendant controlled its agent and knew about, and received the benefits of, the agent's calling activities. Defendant ratified the agent's conduct with respect to the placing of such calls.

64. Defendant has, therefore, violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii). As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and the other members of the Robocall No Consent Recycled Number Class are each entitled to, under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B), a minimum of \$500.00 in damages for each violation of such act.

65. In the event that the Court determines that Defendant's conduct was willfull and knowing, it may, under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C), treble the amount of statutory damages recoverable by Plaintiff and the other members of the Robocall No Consent Recycled Number Class.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
Telephone Consumer Protection Act
(Violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227)
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Do No Call Registry Class)

66. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

67. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c) provides that any "person who has received more than one telephone call within any 12-month period by or on behalf of the same entity in violation of the regulations prescribed under this subsection may" bring a private action based on a violation of said regulations. Those regulations were promulgated to protect telephone subscribers' privacy rights to avoid receiving telephone solicitations to which they object.

68. The TCPA's implementing regulation, 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c), provides that "[n]o person or entity shall initiate any telephone solicitation" to "[a] residential telephone subscriber who has registered his or her telephone number on the national do-not-call registry of persons who do not wish to receive telephone solicitations that is maintained by the federal government."

69. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(e), provides that § 64.1200(c) and (d) "are applicable to any person or entity making telephone solicitations or telemarketing calls to wireless telephone numbers to the extent described in the Commission's Report and Order, CG Docket No. 02-278, FCC 03-153, 'Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone

Consumer Protection Act of 1991,” which the Report and Order, in turn, provides as follows:

The Commission’s rules provide that companies making telephone solicitations to residential telephone subscribers must comply with time of day restrictions and must institute procedures for maintaining do-not-call lists. For the reasons described above, we conclude that these rules apply to calls made to wireless telephone numbers. We believe that wireless subscribers should be afforded the same protections as wireline subscribers.

70. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d) further provides that:

[n]o person or entity shall initiate any call for telemarketing purposes to a residential telephone subscriber unless such person or entity has instituted procedures for maintaining a list of persons who request not to receive telemarketing calls made by or on behalf of that person or entity. The procedures instituted must meet the following minimum standards:

(1) Written policy. Persons or entities making calls for telemarketing purposes must have a written policy, available upon demand, for maintaining a do-not-call list.

(2) Training of personnel engaged in telemarketing. Personnel engaged in any aspect of telemarketing must be informed and trained in the existence and use of the do-not-call list.

(3) Recording, disclosure of do-not-call requests. If a person or entity making a call for telemarketing purposes (or on whose behalf such a call is made) receives a request from a residential telephone subscriber not to receive calls from that person or entity, the person or entity must record the request and place the subscriber’s name, if provided, and telephone number on the do-not-call list at the time the request is made. Persons or entities making calls for telemarketing purposes (or on whose behalf such calls are made) must honor a residential subscriber’s do-not-call request within a reasonable time from the date such request is made. This period may not exceed thirty days from the date of such request

(4) Identification of sellers and telemarketers. A person or entity making a call for telemarketing purposes must provide the called party with the name of the individual caller, the name of the person or entity on whose behalf the call is being made, and a telephone number or address at which the person or entity may be contacted. The telephone number provided may not be a 900 number or any other number for which charges exceed local or long distance transmission charges.

(5) Affiliated persons or entities. In the absence of a specific request by the subscriber to the contrary, a residential subscriber's do-not-call request shall apply to the particular business entity making the call (or on whose behalf a call is made), and will not apply to affiliated entities unless the consumer reasonably would expect them to be included given the identification of the caller and the product being advertised.

(6) Maintenance of do-not-call lists. A person or entity making calls for telemarketing purposes must maintain a record of a consumer's request not to receive further telemarketing calls. A do-not-call request must be honored for 5 years from the time the request is made.

71. Defendant violated 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c) by initiating, or causing to be initiated, telephone solicitations to cellular telephone subscribers such as Plaintiff and the Do Not Call Registry Class members who registered their respective telephone numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry, a listing of persons who do not wish to receive telephone solicitations that is maintained by the federal government. These consumers requested to not receive calls from Defendant, as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(3).

72. Defendant also violated 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d) by failing to have a written policy of dealing with do not call requests, by failing to inform or train its personnel involved in any aspect of telemarketing regarding any do not call list, and by failing to record and honor do not call requests.

73. Defendant placed more than one unsolicited telephone call to Plaintiff and members of the Do Not Call Registry Class within a 12-month period without their prior express consent to receive such autodialed and/or prerecorded calls. Plaintiff and members of the Do Not Call Registry Class never provided any form of consent to receive autodialed and/or prerecorded calls from Defendant, and/or Defendant does not have a current record of consent to place autodialed and/or prerecorded calls to them.

74. Defendant violated 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d) by initiating calls for telemarketing purposes to residential and wireless telephone subscribers, such as Plaintiff and the Do Not Call Registry Class, without instituting procedures that comply with the regulatory minimum standards for maintaining a list of persons who request not to receive telemarketing calls from them.

75. Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5) because Plaintiff and the Do Not Call Registry Class received more than one pre-recorded call in a 12-month period made by, or on behalf of, Defendant in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200, as described above. As a result of Defendant's conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff and the Do Not Call Registry Class suffered actual damages and, under section 47 U.S.C. § 227(c), are each entitled, *inter alia*, to receive up to \$500 in damages for such violations of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200.

76. To the extent Defendant's misconduct is determined to be willfull and knowing, the Court should, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5), treble the amount of statutory damages recoverable by the members of the Do Not Call Registry Class.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Shari Lindenbaum, individually and on behalf of the Classes, prays for the following relief:

1. An order certifying this case as a class action on behalf of the Classes as defined above; appointing Plaintiff Lindenbaum as the representative of the Classes and appointing her attorneys as Class Counsel;
2. An award of actual and statutory damages to be paid into a common fund for the benefit of Plaintiff and the Classes;

3. An order declaring that Defendant's actions, as set out above, violate the TCPA;
4. A declaratory judgment that Defendant's telephone calling equipment constitutes an automatic telephone dialing system under the TCPA;
5. An order requiring Defendant to disgorge any ill-gotten funds acquired as a result of its unlawful telephone calling practices;
6. An order requiring Defendant to identify any third-party involved in the prerecorded calling as set out above, as well as the terms of any contract or compensation arrangement it has with such third parties;
7. An injunction requiring Defendant to cease all unsolicited autodialed and/or prerecorded calling activities, and otherwise protecting the interests of the Classes;
8. An injunction prohibiting Defendant from using, or contracting the use of, an automatic telephone dialing system without obtaining, and maintaining records of, call recipient's prior express written consent to receive calls made with such equipment;
9. An injunction prohibiting Defendant from contracting with any third-party for marketing purposes until they establish and implement policies and procedures for ensuring the third-party's compliance with the TCPA;
10. An injunction prohibiting Defendant from conducting any future telemarketing activities until they have established an internal Do Not Call List as required by the TCPA;
11. An award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to be paid out of the common fund prayed for above;

12. An award to an appropriate *cy pres* recipient of all monies remaining in the common fund due to uncashed checks; and

13. Such further and other relief as the Court deems necessary.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff requests a trial by jury of all claims that can be so tried.

SHARI LINDENBAUM, individually and
on behalf of a Class of similarly situated
individuals

Dated: September 8, 2017

By: /s/Adam T. Savett
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

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Classes